



Museu De Arte Contemporânea De Serralves Porto

Álvaro Siza; Museum Building Series

Other Alvaro Siza

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Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza (born 1933) is one of the most influential architects of the past half-century. His most famous work is perhaps the Serralves Museum in his hometown of Porto, his second museum building, following the Galician Center for Contemporary Art, erected in 1997. Low built and horizontal in axis, its white stucco walls are perforated with occasional openings that yield unexpected views of a surrounding garden. As with most of Siza's buildings, the furniture and fittings were also designed by the architect, including light fixtures, handrails, doorknobs and all signage. Building materials include hardwood floors and painted walls in gesso with marble skirting in the exhibition halls and marble floors in the foyers. This volume, published in Polígrafa's innovative *Museum Building* series, reviews the Serralves Museum, a disarmingly intimate space in pronounced contradistinction to much recent museum architecture.